

Rededication celebrates branch's improvements

By RICHARD PEARL
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The soft, classy sounds of live chamber music seemed to underscore Sunday's rededication of the newly updated, renovated Farmington branch of the Farmington Community Library.

The music, performed by a string quartet led by Kay Deluca, a Farmington Public Schools teacher, enhanced attendees' appreciation for what had been accomplished and heightened their anticipation of what's to come.

"It's wonderful," said Marian Karvonen of Farmington in discussing the brighter, warmer, more high-tech but still user-friendly library.

"I'm flabbergasted by all the computers," added the volunteer, who uses one of them weekly to produce the library's community calendar.

Karvonen brought along her friend, Esther Johnson, a Hills resident and regular at the Hills branch on 12 Mile Road. Johnson said that after Sunday's visit she's "eager to see" the Hills' branch similarly transformed.

The two were among the estimated 400 on hand Sunday to enjoy music by the string quartet and celebrate the \$1.4 million refurbishment and upgrading of the 24-year-old downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.

Meanwhile, the \$11.2 million expansion and remodeling of the larger, 27-year-old Hills main branch is scheduled to begin next spring and be completed in early 2002.

Both projects were funded by the two cities' voters, who passed a millage increase in August 1998. That fact didn't escape Sunday's speakers.

Calling Farmington "a really supportive community, both the city itself and the administration," Robert Plummer, library board president, told the crowd it was "people like you who gave all that support and got the millage passed that enabled the remodeling."

Never wavering

Hills Councilman Jonathan

Grant,

who represented outgoing Mayor Aldo Vagozzi at the ceremony, praised the Farmington branch supporters for "never wavering and not quitting until we...put together (a bill) that voters could get behind."

Grant also lauded Library Director Bev Papai for her "high standards" and unwavering support. "We're tremendously fortunate to have her," he said.

The Farmington renovation

will

"move us well into the new millennium, technology-wise as well as overall," with the new look we've given it," Plummer said.

"We'll be hard-pressed to beat this," he added.

Farmington Mayor Mary

Bush,

who, like Papai, suffered

through two previous unsuccessful attempts to get voters to approve library modernization,

noted the Farmington branch "is

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